

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed 2 sheets of formal drawings containing Figs. 1 and 1A for the 2 sheet of drawings containing Figs. 1 and 1A previously submitted on March 1, 2002.

Figures 1 and 1A are hereby amended to add the legend "(Prior Art)".

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In an Official Action dated December 21, 2005, claim 21 was allowed and claims 1-20 were rejected.

Claims 1-20 are cancelled herein and claims 22-25 are added herein. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Objection to the Drawings

In paragraph 1 of the office action, the Examiner objected to Figures 1 and 1A, and required that they be designated "Prior Art." Figures 1 and 1A are hereby amended to add the legend "Prior Art" as shown in the enclosed amended Figures 1 and 1A, and thus this objection is overcome.

Response to Rejection Under 35 USC 102(e)

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,725 to Dietz et al. ("Dietz:"). Claims 1-20 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and thus this rejection is now overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claim 21 was allowed.

New Claims

New independent claim 22 recites:

"... (a) identifying a key associated with at least one layer of a packet that resides above a data link control layer;

(b) responsive to the packet including a request packet:

- (i) storing data associated with the request packet utilizing the key as an index corresponding to the stored data, and
- (ii) decoding the request packet; and
- (c) responsive to the packet including a reply packet:
 - (i) if the reply packet includes the key, retrieving the data associated with the request packet utilizing the key as the index corresponding to the data,
 - (ii) correlating the reply packet with the request packet associated with the data, and
 - (iii) decoding the reply packet using at least in part the retrieved data associated with the request packet.

Thus, the invention of claim 22 makes it possible to (i) correlate request packets with reply packets using data that is stored and retrieved with a key at a layer above the data link control layer as an index corresponding to the data, and also to (ii) decode the reply packet using at least in part such data retrieved utilizing the key.

Dietz fails to disclose or even suggest correlating request packets with reply packets using data that is stored and retrieved with a key at a layer above the data link control layer as an index corresponding to the data, and decoding the reply packet using at least in part such data retrieved with the key. Rather, Dietz merely discloses a network monitor device that uses flow signatures in general to recognize reply packets corresponding to the request packets. See e.g., Dietz, col. 27, lines 4-8. In other words, Dietz fails to disclose the combined techniques of (i) correlating reply packets with request packets using a key at an upper layer above the data link control layer and (ii) decoding the reply packet using the data associated with the correlated request packet as retrieved using the key as an index corresponding to the data. Therefore, new claim 22 is patentably distinct from Dietz and should be allowable.


New claims 23-27 are dependent from claim 22, and thus should be allowable for at least the same reasons as explained above with respect to claim 22.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 21-27 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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